

# **Battle Mountain District, Tonopah Field Office**

## **Update**

**Date: September 12, 2017**

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### **MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**Corvus Gold Nevada North Bullfrog Exploration Project** – The Project is located six miles northwest of Beatty. Preliminary results from exploration indicate favorable values and Corvus Gold Nevada is continuing their exploration.

**Gemfield Resources Ltd. Gemfield Project** – Gemfield Resources has completed the majority of the required baseline studies for the proposed open pit mine about 1.5 miles north of Goldfield. It is anticipated that the original PoO boundary of 1,918 acres and surface disturbance of 1,098 acres will remain the same. The ground water model was completed and is being reviewed for results. The BMD and Gemfield Resources Ltd. are currently working on alternatives for the project.

**Round Mountain Gold Corp., Plan of Operations Amendment (Phase W)** - Round Mtn. has proposed a modification to their current Plan of Operations that would include the expansion of the open pit. The Environmental Assessment is currently out for public comment and will close on September 25.

**Mineral Ridge Gold LLC (MRG), Mary LC Expansion Satellite Deposit Plan of Operations Amendment** – Five miles north west of Silver Peak, MRG proposes a series of changes to their existing Plan of Operations. MRG proposes to expand the heap leach pad and increase the size of the existing process pond capacity and include a toll ore area to receive off site material. Baseline studies are being conducted.

**Hasbrouck** - The proposed mine operations under this Plan will consist of an open pit mine and waste rock disposal areas, and the processing of ore using heap leaching on public and private land. WKM plans the construction, operation, reclamation, and closing of an open pit surface oxide resource and heap leach processing operations. Baseline studies are currently under progress to support the PoO and the NEPA analysis for the project.

## **LANDS AND REALTY**

**Silver Peak Road ROW** – The office is analyzing a ROW amendment to Esmeralda County to amend the Silver Peak Road ROW. The Environmental Assessment will be available for the public within the next week for comments.

**Gold Point Land Sale** - Esmeralda County has shown an interest in the purchase of the town of Gold Point. The sale of the Land is currently under the review process. A site visit by the WO team to conduct a validity exam was conducted. A meeting with SHPO was conducted and a cultural mitigation will be developed. The validity exam is in its final review process. The package for the Federal Register Package has been submitted to the Nevada State Office.

**Beatty Bike Trails** – The master plan has been reviewed and the Plan of Development is currently being developed. Base line studies are being planned.

**CNTA Withdrawal** – The expanded land withdrawal for the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) (Project Faultless) UC-1 Site increases the withdrawn land from 640 acres to 1000 acres. The withdrawal is identified in the Mt. Diablo Principal Meridian, Township 9 North, Range 51 East, as portions of the prorated sections 14, 15, 22, and 23 of Nye County, Nevada. The Federal Register package is at the WO for review and posting.

**VEA Fiber Optic Line** - The project consists of a fiber optic cable both overhead and underground that will be attached to existing power line poles. This project traverses the US Forest Service, BLM Southern Nevada and the Battle Mountain District Offices. Cultural surveys are being conducted and once completed the project will continue to be processed.

**Sandstone Solar Energy's (SSE) Proposed Eight Solar Towers** – This project is located approximately fifteen miles north of Tonopah. It is in its early stages and required authorization from the Nevada State Office before moving forward with the permitting process.

## **RANGELAND MANAGEMENT**

**Beatty Springs**—Five springs were approved during 2011 and one of the springs will be under construction during 2018. The USDA provided the designs for the springs and NDOW will be providing a contract for the development. It is anticipated that development will start in January or February.

**Spring /Stream Fencing**— The BLM worked with local permittees and others with water rights around nine spring sources within the Tonopah Field Office that are being heavily impacted by wild horses and burros. This project will protect spring heads while allowing water to be available for use of wildlife and livestock. This will help these areas recover and continue to provide water. One project was completed in February near the town of Goldfield in Nye County. The project has shown great progress. Once supplies have been acquired the remaining projects will be started at the appropriate time to not affect the horses or burros.

**Range Land Health Assessments** – Francisco, Smoky, Ralston, Stone Cabin Complex, Reveille and Monitor allotments are being developed. After the signing of the Greater Sage Grouse Decision to amend the RMP reconsideration of the priorities are being considered..

## **Wild Horse and Burro Program**

**Inventory Flights** – Flights conducted for the southern regions of the TFO in conjunction with the Pahrump FO and Nellis AFB. The Bullfrog HMA, north of Beatty, is currently estimated by a direct count to be at or near 700 burros. The HMA has an authorization of 91 burros.

## **RECREATION**

**Rebelle Rally 2017** – Is proposing to conduct an off road, multi day event navigating using paper maps and compasses during October 2017. The event will start in Squaw Valley California and will finish in San Diego and is an all women event. The application is being processed by multiple offices throughout Nevada and California.

**Zero One Odyssey** – This is a multi-year SRP that conducts off-road tours within the Battle Mountain District.

**Vegas to Reno 2018**- This off-road event will consist of a one day event and will be held in August 2018 which will start in Beatty.

**VFW Poker Run 2017**- Annual off road ATV/UTV event within the Beatty area that is noncompetitive low speed event. This event will be conducted in October 2017.

**Tonopah 250, 2017**- OHV race (motorcycles and buggies) that will take place within the Tonopah Field Office. This event is scheduled to be conducted in October 2017.

**North American Eagle Land Speed**- Land Speed Record attempt to be conducted in the Diamond Valley Area of the Battle Mountain District.

**Snore 250-** This event is scheduled be conducted in October 2017 and will start in Beatty and traverse close to Golfield Nevada for a two lap three day event to include a qualifying time event.

### **Cultural**

**Rhyolite** - TFO has requested for funding to stabilize three building to ensure safety and access to them for the enjoyment of the visitors. NPS restoration team is in the process of developing the designs and cost estimates for the train station. The TFO is developing a business plan for Rhyolite to be a site where donations can be accepted for the maintaining the site.

### **Fluid Minerals**

September Oil and Gas Lease Sale – The BMD is processed 3 nominations for the September Oil and Gas Lease sale. The Determination of NEPA adequacy has been completed.